INVITE ☀ IGNITE ☀ INSPIRE

eCampus Weekly Update

This Week on the Ohlone eCampus
Week of October 12, 2020

Focus Topic: What are we really testing?

Now that all courses are fully online, the fear that students are going to cheat (rather, more students will cheat) seems to be a pervasive topic around the proverbial water cooler. The fear of cheating has been parlayed by predatory companies into 'video proctoring solutions' that they claim reduce the incidence of cheating…for a cost. For a fee, they will monitor the eye movements and keystrokes of every student taking your test and they will flag those that *may* be cheating. When a student is looking down, are they looking at a cheat sheet or are they looking at the keyboard? When they look up, are they looking at notes they have attached to their computer? Seems we might be assessing the student's ability to be creative and inventive more than the ability to recall information.

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We have an opportunity to rethink our assessment practices and ask ourselves if there is a better way to evaluate a student's understanding of a topic and the nuances involved with the application of said topic. This article by Wade Tyler Millward proposes that "what really helps deter cheating is a culture of academic integrity and consistent reminders to students on when assistance is allowed for exams and assignments, and what specific types of assistance are allowed". He further questions the value of testing memorization skills and argues that information literacy is actually more important.

Professional Development

Upcoming professional development courses:

- *Humanizing Online Teaching and Learning* - November 2 through November 21 - [Register](#)
- *Ohlone Online Teaching Capstone* - November 30 – January 8 - [Register](#)

eCampus Inspirations – Continue to Learn With Us

Creating Engaging Discussion Boards

Day	Date	Time	Facilitator	Zoom Link
Friday	10/16	12:00 – 1:00 pm	eCampus	[Meeting Link](#)
Wednesday	10/21	12:00 – 1:00 pm	eCampus	[Meeting Link](#)

General Office Hours

Schedule one-on-one support with someone from the eCampus by [submitting](#) a Canvas IT ticket. Be sure to include the following information: a few days/times you are available, and specific tasks/questions you would like assistance with. Your success is our primary concern!

Minimum Qualifications Training (MQT) – November 9,10, and 12

According to the UFO contract, all faculty members teaching online in spring 2021 must complete the six- hour MQT course. The next session is scheduled for **November 9, 10, & 12 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.** Please consult with your Dean if you have any questions about this requirement. [REGISTER HERE](#).

Distance Education Addendum Update

All courses scheduled to be taught in spring 2021 must have local approval to be offered fully online. The deadline for submission of course DE Addendum proposals is **October 16 for Major Revision** proposals and **November 2 for Additional Approval** proposals. **All approvals for Distance Education for Spring 2021 courses must be in place by December 20, 2020**.

DE Addendum Workshop

Hands-on workshop where you will create the Additional Approval proposal and complete the DE Addendum.

- Monday, October 12 – 3:30 – 5:00 pm   [Meeting Link](#)
- Wednesday, October 14 – 9:00 – 10:30 am   [Meeting Link](#)

Notes from Mary

When you decided on a teaching as a career, did you think "Wow, I can't wait to grade students?" I doubt it. When you define teaching and learning is grading a central theme? I hope not and I encourage you to consider why that is and how we can maintain our focus on teaching and learning and align our grading practices accordingly. Here are three resources you may find helpful in reflecting and adjusting your practices in this time of change.

- *Grading for Equity: What It Is, Why It Matters, and How It Can Transform Schools and Classrooms* by Joe Feldman (2019) talks about the history of grading in US schools, primarily K-12 schools in Oakland, CA. The second half of the book is dedicated to 19 grading practices aimed at achieving accurate, bias-resistant, and motivational equitable grading.
- Equity in STEM is a webinar in which three CCC faculty share assessments they've used in their classrooms to reduce barriers and improve outcomes for all students. If you don't have time to view the entire webinar, I strongly recommend that you cue up minute 43 as Dr. Rob Rabulcaba shares his experiences in working with Umoja students at San Diego City College.
- Not sure where to start? California Virtual Campus Online Network of Educations (@ONE) has created an Authentic Assessment Guide complete with example assessments to inspire you.